TRENDS

3/18/85
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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 14, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 9 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 5.9 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 165.4 billion ton-miles, down 5.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 9 totaled 386,476, down 3.8 percent from last year, and 2.0 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.2 percent in the South, but down 4.7 percent in the East and 6.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up 1,096 cars (11.3 percent). Fifteen of 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 2 totaled 91,822 trailers and/or containers, 1.1 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first nine weeks of the year was 731,637 trailers and/or containers, down 4.2 percent from 1984.

Effective with last week's Trends, the figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/09/85:

	Loadings in Week ended March 9, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,264	D	4,729	17.5	D	1,985	8.2
Other farm products	3,366	D	34	1.0	D	721	17.6
Metallic ores	12,296	D	3,602	22.7	I	541	4.6
Coal	116,053	D	1,436	1.2	I	495	0.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,803	I	1,096	11.3	I	753	7.5
Nonmetallic minerals	11,522	D	767	6.2	D	945	7.6
Grain mill products	10,767	D	498	4.4	D	88	0.8
Food and kindred products	11,332	I	359	3.3	D	207	1.8
Primary forest products	12,928	D	956	6.9	I	426	3.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,759	D	1,014	13.0	D	691	9.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,918	I	378	2.6	D	638	4.1
Chemicals and allied products	25,764	I	356	1.4	D	422	1.6
Petroleum products	4,488	D	633	12.4	D	105	2.3
Stone, clay and glass products	10,529	D	327	3.0	I	224	2.2
Coke	4,644	D	719	13.4	D	628	11.9
Metals and products	9,019	D	1,440	13.8	D	1,468	14.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,248	I	207	0.9	D	367	1.6
Waste and scrap materials	10,095	D	505	4.8	I	220	2.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,898	D	537	7.2	D	405	5.5
All other carloads	59,608	D	196	0.3	D	2,016	3.3
LCL traffic	175	D	115	39.7	D	2	1.1
Total Cars Loaded	386,476	D	15,112	3.8	D	8,029	2.0
Corresponding week of 1984	401,588						

	1985	1984	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (10 weeks)	3,568,582	3,816,497	D	6.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
9 Weeks ended March 2	147.7	156.9	D	5.9
Week ended March 9	17.7	18.8	D	5.9
10 weeks cumulative	165.4	175.5	D	5.8

AARt-031485